

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to further define the claimed carbon black. Support for amended Claims 1 and 4 can be found at, for example, paragraph [0043] and Example 5. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 10 and 11 are pending.

**Response to Claim Rejections Under §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 1-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,484,836 to Kikuchi et al as evidenced by WO 91/13944 to Chiung-Huei et al.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,994 to Amino et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are directed to a rubber composition for a tire tread comprising 10-250 parts by weight of a carbon black per 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen desorption ratio  $> 0.260-6.25 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{CTAB (wt\%)}$ , a toluene tinting permeability of not less than 90% and a cetyltrimethylammonium bromide adsorption specific surface area (CTAB) of 111-200  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Kikuchi discloses that “when the CTAB is more than 110  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , the heat buildup becomes too high, which is also not preferable.” *See*, col. 3, lines 36-37. Thus, Kikuchi teaches away from utilizing a carbon black having a CTAB within the presently claimed range.

In addition, as seen from attached declaration by Mr. Yanagioka, CB-1, CB-2 and CB-3 of Kikuchi do not satisfy either of (1) a hydrogen desorption ratio  $> 0.260-6.25 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{CATB}$

(wt%), or (2) a toluene tinting permeability of not less than 90%. Thus, Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest the carbon black used in the present invention.

Chiung-Huei and Amino fail to make up for the deficiencies of Kikuchi discussed above. Thus, Kikuchi, Chiung-Huei and Amino fail to anticipate or render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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